

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11 NEA-14 DRC-01 FEA-02 ACDA-19

SCI-06 /181 W

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R 272115Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8297

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2042

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NZ

SUBJ: PM KIRK COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TESTING

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN MAJOR SPEECH BEFORE WELLINGTON PRESS CLUB JUNE 26 PM KIRK STRESSED HIS FEARS CONCERNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TESTING. HE CALLED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY AND TOOK INDIA TO TASK FOR ITS RECENT TEST. WITHOUT NAMING THE US HE TOOK ISSUE WITH RECENT AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES. CRITICISM OF FRANCE WAS MILD. END SUMMARY.

2. KIRK SAID A TREATY TO BAN TESTS IN ALL ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE "GAUGE OF GOOD FAITH ON THE PART OF THE MASSIVELY ARMED NUCLEAR POWERS." HE NOTED AS A MATTER "OF DEEP CONCERN" THAT THERE HAVE BEEN, ON AVERAGE, MORE NUCLEAR TESTS PER YEAR SINCE SIGNING OF LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY THAN THERE WERE BEFORE TREATY CAME INTO EFFECT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT IN THIRTY YEARS OF DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATION NOT ONE NUCLEAR WEAPON HAS BEEN DESTROYED AS RESULT OF AN AGREEMENT TO DO SO.

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3. WITH REGARD TO INDIAN TEST KIRK STATED IT OPENED  
"AN UNFORTUNATE STABLE DOOR... ONE WHOSE REPERCUSSIONS  
WILL BE FELT FOR A VERY GREAT LENGTH OF TIME." HE ADDED,  
"INDIA'S TEST HAS SHOWN HOW FRAGILE THE CONTROL SYSTEM  
IS AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT THE CONTINUING PROLIFERATION  
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD COME TO AN END..."

4. WITHOUT NAMING US KIRK CAME DOWN HARD ON RECENT NUCLEAR  
AGREEMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID, "IF...CONTROLS ARE  
UNILATERALLY SET ASIDE THERE IS NO WAY OF POLICING THEM  
SHORT OF INVASION...RECENT EVENTS LEAD ME TO BELIEVE  
THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS INCREASED  
THE POSSIBILITY OF NUCLEAR CONFLAGRATION UNLESS A GENUINE  
BASIS FOR A CONFIDENT PEACE BETWEEN THE MIDDLE EAST  
COUNTRIES CAN BE FOUND."

5. KIRK TALKED AROUND FRENCH TESTING FOR SOME TIME  
STRESSING HIS DEEP CONCERN AND DISTRESS THAT FRENCH HAD  
NOT ABIDED BY THE RULE OF LAW, E.G., WORLD COURT  
INJUNCTION. TAKING NOTE OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT  
THAT FRANCE HAD NOT BEEN UNRECEPTIVE TO THE CONCERNS  
EXPRESSED BY GNZ HE MADE POINT THAT OPPOSITION TO TESTS  
WAS NOT LIMITED TO FRANCE. BECAUSE TESTS THREATENED  
SURVIVAL OF HUMAN RACE "WE HAVE OPPOSED EQUALLY TESTS  
IN INDIA, IN BRITAIN, IN CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION AND THE  
UNITED STATES..."

6. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS EMBASSY  
REPORTS PM KIRK IS STEADFASTLY ANTI-NUCLEAR. HE CAN BE  
EXPECTED TO REGULARLY PROTEST ATMOSPHERIC AND UNDERGROUND  
NUCLEAR TESTS. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT NZ WILL CONTINUE  
ITS EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY.  
EMBASSY WOULD NOTE HERE THAT KIRK'S OPPOSITION TO THINGS  
NUCLEAR IS INFINITELY CLOSE TO TOTAL. IT IS BASED ON  
PHILOSOPHIC AND MORAL GROUNDS AND IS NOT EASILY SUBJECT  
TO SUASION OF ANY SORT. WHILE HIS NATIONAL SECURITY  
ADVISORS CAN BE EXPECTED, AS A GENERAL RULE, TO KEEP  
HIM FROM GOING TOO FAR OFF THE DEEP END IT IS EXTREMELY  
DOUBTFUL THAT HE WILL EVER ACCEPT LIVING WITH THE BOMB.  
FULL TEXT OF SPEECH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.  
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SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, PERSONAL OPINION, NPT, DISARMAMENT, SPEECHES, NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PM KIRK COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TESTING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NZ, ID, FR, (KIRK, NORMAN E)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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